

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02217 120906Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SCA-01

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R 111440Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6139

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2217

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, YS

SUBJECT: AMCITS IN JAIL IN ADEN

REF: STATE 187498

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ABDALLAH ASNAG TODAY I RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT PDRY, AS ANOTHER GESTURE TO INGRATIATE THEMSELVES WITH SAUDIS AND OTHERS, MIGHT BE WILLING TO RELEASE KOPP AND TORHAN. RELEASE COULD BE DESCRIBED AS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE ON THEIR PART, AND COULD BE DONE(IF PDRY WISHED) WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO CHARGES LODGED AGAINST THESE TWO AMERICANS. I REPEATED TO ASNAG THAT BOTH AMERICANS WERE ENTIRELY INNOCENT OF CHARGES. BOTH, I SAID, WERE VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHO HAD SUFFERED FAR TOO LONG AND HARSHLY FOR FOOLISHNESS OF VISITING PDRY AS TOURISTS.

2. ASNAG SAID HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MUTIH AT THIS POINT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT. SINCE THEIR CLOSE CONTACTS AT JIDDA ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE, ASNAG FELT HE COULD SUGGEST RELEASE EITHER ON OUR BEHALF OR AS YAR IDEA. HE ALSO SAID THAT AHMED ABDO SAID COULD RAISE QUESTION WITH SOUTH YEMENIS ON HIS UP-COMING TRIP TO ADEN. BOTH ABDALLAH AL-ASNAG AND AHMED SAID THINK THERE IS AT BEST MIXED CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN SUCH A DEMARCHE.

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3. COMMENT: REQUEST DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT ME TO FORMALLY ASK

YAR TO MAKE SUCH A DEMARCHE TO PDRY. BELIEVE WE SHOULD LEAVE
NO STONE UNTURNED IN EFFORT TO WIN RELEASE OF THESE MEN.
THIS BELIEF REENFORCED BY REFTEL COMMENT BY BRITISH THAT
KOPP AND TORHAN MAY RPT MAY BE CAUGHT UP IN TRIALS NOW GOING ON IN
PDRY OF ALLEGED HOSTILE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER
WE MIGHT SWEETEN DEAL SOMEWHAT TO PDRY IF YAR EMISSARIES COULD SAY
THAT USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND LETTER OF APPRECIATION
TO PDRY FONMIN IF RELEASE MADE. I HAVE NATURALLY NOT
RAISED THIS IDEA WITH ASNAG OR SAID BUT IF PDRY IS CURRENTLY
SEEKING CREDITS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, PROSPECT OF FORMAL THANKS FROM
US MIGHT BE WELCOME. SUCH A LETTER WOULD OF COURSE MAKE NO
CONCESSIONS TO FALSE CHARGES MADE AGAINST AMCITS AND WOULD PERFORCE
HAVE TO IGNORE HARSH AND UNFAIR TREATMENT, BUT IT MIGHT FOR THESE
REASONS TIP THE BALANCE FAVORABLY IN PDRY CALCULATIONS. REQUEST
INSTRUCTIONS.
RANSOM

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